



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Chris Ryer, Director, Department of Planning <i>Chris Ryer</i>
<b>DATE</b>	October 8, 2024
<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Council Bill #24-0853

**Position: Favorable, Defer to Planning Commission**

**SUMMARY OF POSITION**

Every jurisdiction in Maryland is required to complete a 10-year Comprehensive Plan following the decennial census. Under the State’s Land Use Article, every jurisdiction’s Comprehensive Plan must be developed using the State’s twelve visions to guide land use and development decisions. Our Baltimore has used the State’s visions as well as the City’s co-created visions to guide the development of all aspects of this plan so that it fully reflects the needs of Baltimoreans while meeting state requirements.

In addition, the City Charter requires the Planning Commission to adopt and revise a master plan for the proposed physical development of Baltimore City. This plan meets those requirements, while furthering the ideas and work of many other plans for the future of Baltimore.

“Our Baltimore, Your Baltimore” (Our Baltimore) is the City’s first Comprehensive Plan since 2006. The focus of the plan is the spaces, places, and neighborhoods that make Baltimore home. The plan provides guidance to evaluate policies, programs, and land use changes. The plan answers the question: how can City policies related to urban planning make the experience of living in Baltimore better for current and future residents?

The plan is intended to guide equitable neighborhood development over the next 10 years and beyond. The purpose of the plan is to advance policies that support current residents and make Baltimore an inviting place to live. The goal is to develop the city in a manner such that residents want to stay, benefit from staying, and invite people to move to Baltimore.

Although the plan is called a Comprehensive Plan, it is not all encompassing; it is focused on the physical development of the City. This plan builds on and connects existing plans from across City agencies, thereby enabling better coordination for the execution of these plans across the City. This Comprehensive Plan recognizes the link between the City’s physical environment and

residents' health, well-being, and livelihoods. Therefore, while this plan focuses on the physical environment, it also addresses some social, cultural, and economic topics as they relate to the physical environment of Baltimore.

Our Baltimore is organized into five primary sections: (1) Introduction, (2) Background, (3) Growth and Retention, (4) Policy Recommendations, and (5) Plans Shaping the City. Together, these sections detail where we have been, where we are now, and our City's vision and strategy for equitable, sustainable growth into the future. Learning from our past and applying those lessons to the City's physical, economic, cultural, and social development to make a more vibrant, resilient, and united Baltimore.

Our approach to developing the Comprehensive Plan has empowered the residents of Baltimore City, so they can be active partners and contributors in the process. This approach and the plan itself include strategies for equity in each step of the planning process to address structural, procedural, distributional, and transgenerational inequities. The key to the successful development and implementation of this plan is ongoing engagement with residents. This engagement, along with policies, analyses, and strategic decisions will help to ensure we address systemic and historical inequities across the city.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Department of Planning respectfully requests a favorable report for this bill.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Tiso, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at [eric.tiso@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:eric.tiso@baltimorecity.gov) or at 410-396-8358.